

REMARKS

Claims 52-65 have been canceled and new claims 66-80 submitted. The new claims substantially track canceled claims 54, 55, 58, 59 and 61-65, however, the new claims have been re-ordered and renumbered for convenience.

Claim 78 is drawn to fragments from proteins consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:21, wherein the fragment is at least 35 amino acids in length. Support for such fragments can be found in the specification, for example, on page 24, lines 20-24 through page 25, line 1-4. Accordingly, no new matter has been entered into the application.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph – enablement

The Examiner has rejected claims 52-57 and 60-65 for lack of enablement. Specifically, the Examiner states that while the specification is enabling for SEQ ID NO: 15, 18 or 21, it does not provide enablement for any *Dermatophagoides farinae* mapB protein that binds to an antibody that selectively binds to SEQ ID NO:15.

While Applicants disagree with the Examiner's position, in an effort to expedite prosecution, claims 52-65 have been canceled and new claims submitted. The newly submitted claims are limited to proteins comprising or consisting of only those amino acid sequences which the Examiner has acknowledged are clearly enabled by the specification, namely SEQ ID NO's 15, 18, 21, and specifically defined fragments thereof. Applicants note that the newly submitted claims do not refer to proteins which are defined by hybridization, percent identity, or as "mapB" proteins.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph – written description

The Examiner has rejected claims 52-57 and 60-65 for lack of written description. Specifically, the Examiner states that the term "mapB protein" is not considered a structural limitation since there is no molecular weight or sequence identifier associated with the name and the specification does not limit the definition of a mapB protein to a isolated 98 kD protein, isolated from *Dermatophagoides* and which has a particular sequence.

While Applicants disagree with the Examiner's position, in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants note claims 52-65 have been canceled and new claims submitted.

Applicants note that the newly submitted claims do not use the term "mapB" protein to describe the claimed proteins. Instead, the newly submitted claims are drawn to proteins, and their fragments, which are described by the specific SEQ ID NO's taught in the specification, namely SEQ ID NO's 15, 18 and 21.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe all of the newly submitted claims to be in condition for allowance. If any questions remain regarding this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (970) 493-7272 ext. 4174.

Respectfully submitted,

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